(19)

To the INHABITANTS and OTHERS, PAYERS TO THE POOR-RATES of the City and County of EXETER.

THE late Addreſs to you from the Corporation of the Poor confirms their determined Reſolution not to ſuffer the ſmalleſt Incroachment *on their Conſequence*, in order to gratify the Wiſhes of a Set of Men who had better mind their own Buſineſs than to interfere in Matters that do not concern *them*.——— The Gentlemen who are known by the Name of the Forty, it is well known, are choſen by their Fellow-Citizens as Guardians for the Poor; and if thoſe Men who are choſen into that Office do not meet the general Approbation of their Fellow-Citizens, let more Regard, if poſſible, be had to the Election of Members in future.

In order to avoid the very great Expence that would be incurred by frequent Applications to Parliament, it becomes neceſſary to lodge a diſcretionary Power *ſomewhere*, for raiſing ſuch Supplies as from Time to Time ſhall be found needful.——In whom is it ſo proper to lodge that *unlimited Power* as in the MAYOR AND JUSTICES? Men diſtinguiſhed for their Uprightneſs, and for their Knowledge and Experience of the Conſtitution of this City, and who will be ſucceeded in their Offices *by ſome of the firſt Characters*, poſſeſſing thoſe Virtues and Qualifications *by hereditary Deſcent*, which enable them to ſhine with ſo much Luſtre in their exalted Stations.——Has it not been the invariable Plan of the Corporation, to elect into their Body ſuch diſtinguiſhed Characters as theſe, *without any Regard to Party*?——What then have the Citizens to apprehend?——In fact, I have, as well as many others, that Confidence in the Bench of Juſtices, that I wiſh to have additional Clauſes in the intended Bill, granting to theſe Gentlemen a Power to increaſe the Number of Lamps in this City, as *they* ſhall ſee Occaſion—a Power to employ as many Scavengers as *they* pleaſe, to clean away the Filth and Naſtineſs ſo conſpicuous in almoſt every Part of the City—and further, to appoint a nightly Watch, and make ſuch other Improvements as *they* may think expedient—with *unlimited Powers* for raiſing, by an equitable Aſſeſſment, a Fund for carrying all ſuch deſireable Objects into Execution.

A Lover of Improvement.

Exeter, December 2d, 1784.

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